

IL 049-04-9
June 4, 2004

OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND MATERIEL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION LETTER

TO: Under Secretaries for Health, Benefits, and Memorial Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Management; Chief Facilities Management Officer, Office of Facilities Management; Veterans Integrated Service Network Directors; Directors, VA Medical Center Activities, Domiciliaries, Outpatient Clinics, Medical and Regional Office Centers, and Regional Offices; Directors, Denver Distribution Center, Austin Automation Center, Records Management Center, VBA Benefits Delivery Centers, and VA Health Administration Center; and the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, VA National Acquisition Center

ATTN: Heads of the Contracting Activity, VA Contracting Officers, Purchase Card Holders, and All Other VA Employees Involved with Acquiring Supplies and Services

SUBJ: Federal Acquisition Regulation Set-Aside Provisions for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns

1. This Information Letter (IL) cancels IL 049-04-4, Implementing the Set-Aside Provisions of Public Law 108-183 for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns, dated February 24, 2004. IL 049-04-4 has been superceded by Federal Acquisition Circular 2001-23, a change to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), published in the Federal Register on May 5, 2004 (69FR25273-25280). The FAR provides guidance on implementing the provisions of Public Law 108-183 that allow contracting officers to set aside acquisitions for service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, and contracting officers should follow the provisions of the FAR.

2. Contracting officers and all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff are encouraged to seek out and use veteran-owned (VO) and service-disabled veteran-owned (SDVO) small businesses (SBs) to furnish the supplies and services needed to care for veterans. In performing market research in accordance with FAR Part 10 to locate VO and SDVO SB sources, the contracting officer must use the VetBiz Vendor Information Pages (VIP), located on the Internet at <http://www.vetbiz.gov>. Companies that are registered as VO and SDVO SBs in this database have stipulated that the firms are at least 51 percent owned

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and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans, as defined in the FAR, and that the business is currently small by federal size standards. In addition, contracting officers must use additional market research sources, such as the Central Contractor Registration located at <http://www.ccr.gov>. Contracting officers should register any VO or SDVO SB not already enrolled in VetBiz VIP by entering, at a minimum, the company's name and contact information.

3. Until such time as the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation (FPDS-NG) is modified to include a reporting field for an acquisition that is set aside for award to a SDVO SB, contracting officers shall report the acquisition to FPDS-NG as being from a SDVO SB and shall provide a copy of the award announcement via e-mail to Wayne Simpson, Deputy Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, at wayne.simpson@mail.va.gov, within 3 days of contract award.

4. Thank you for your continuing support of the Federal Veterans Entrepreneurship Program. We strongly encourage you to seek out and award contracts to VO SBs and to use the set-aside authority in the FAR to increase acquisitions made from SDVO SBs. Please direct any questions regarding this guidance to Don Kaliher, Acquisition Policy Division (049A5A), at (202) 273-8819, or to Gail Wegner, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Center for Veterans Enterprise (00VE), at (202) 303-3260, ext. 5239.

/S/

C. Ford Heard
Director
Acquisition Resources Service

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